

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 4, 2006

LB 1249

back? Senator Thompson waives the rest of her time. Thank you. Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. You would think, being an Aquila customer and paying a little more rates for my gas than what I would do if we were on MUD, that I would be for...or against this bill. But I am for it. A couple of issues that have come to me is when we're talking about competition, is it competition when the big man comes in and takes over the little, and you can't go back to the little? If it's competition, I think it's misused on both sides here, because if MUD would move into where I live now, into the Elkhorn area, and take over the Aquila customers, then we would have no competition and as far as I see it, we would have a monopoly. I cringe whenever I see a public or government agency take over private business. How often have we heard in this room, every one of us, why don't you run that Legislature, that state government, like a business? Because we're not a business; we're run by the government, we're run by elected officials. MUD is not a private company, people, as you know. It is a public utility owned by the people and run by elected officials. How soon would it be when the big fish has ate all the little fish that everybody will do exactly what the big fish wants? That scares me. I'm going to listen to the debate. I can tell you that my neighbors, the people I've talked with about this, see this also as the middle ground and support LB 1249. I've asked a lot of questions. I've wrote articles about it in the local paper, and LB 1249 is supported by a bigger share of those people in my district that I've talked to, than those that are against it. Thank you.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I was wondering if Senator Landis could clarify some issues for me.

SENATOR BAKER: Senator Landis, would you respond, please?

SENATOR LANDIS: I'll do my best.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Landis, I...let me put on an old hat of